

Application No. 09/401,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2005

Docket No. 1232-4570

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 20-43 are pending in this application. Claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 are independent. Claims 23, 34 and 39 are objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten independent forms.

By this amendment, independent claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 are amended. Dependent claims 21, 32, 33 and 36-39 are also amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Objections

Claims 30, 32, 33, 35-40, 42 and 43 have been objected to because of various informalities.

The objected to claims have been amended as shown above addressing the informality issues.

Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn in view of the above amendments to the relevant claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 20-22, 24-33, 35-38 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,768,563 to Murata ("Murata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,808,670 to Oyashiki ("Oyashiki").

Independent claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 have been amended for further clarification.

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In particular, independent claim 20 is amended to further read "a notifying device adapted to notify the client of the identification information of plurality of virtual cameras stored by said storage device; and a receiving device adapted to receive a selection command from the client selecting one of the plurality of virtual cameras corresponding to the identification information notified by said notifying device." Other independent claims (i.e., claims 27-30, 35 and 40-43) are amended in a similar way to claim 20 as amended.

One of the aspects of the present invention is directed to an image pick-up server configured to (1) store, in a storage device, a plurality of shootable areas (e.g., control ranges), which are the object of the distribution service, within a range in which shooting direction of the camera can be changed, and information relating to the plurality of shootable areas set and information which specifies a plurality of virtual cameras for respective ones of the shootable areas, (2) notifies the client of the identification information of plurality of virtual cameras stored by in said storage device, (3) receive a selection command from the client selecting one of the plurality of virtual cameras corresponding to the identification information notified by the notifying device, (4) read out, from the storage device, information corresponding to virtual camera selected by the client, after receiving the selection command from the client, and (5) control the camera within the range in which it is possible to change the shooting direction, or, distributes the image information to client.

Murata discloses that a remote client displays a plurality of camera windows 350, 352, 354 and 356 as shown in Fig. 34 and displays image picked up by a plurality of cameras within each camera windows. Murata also discloses setting a range to be picked up by a camera. Oyashiki discloses setting a plurality of monitoring prohibit areas (i.e., sensible ranges) for a

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camera as shown in, for example, Figs. 3 or 5.

However, the cited references (i.e., Murata and Oyashiki) fails to show or suggest notifying a client of the identification information of plurality of virtual cameras so that the client selects one of a plurality of virtual cameras as required by independent claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 as amended. In other words, the cited references fails to show or suggest receiving a selection command from the client selecting one of the plurality of virtual cameras corresponding to the identification information notified by the notifying device.

Furthermore, amended independent claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 recite that the distribution of image information is made after receiving the selection command from the client. In contrast, the picked-up image is displayed prior to operate the camera in Murata.

Additionally, in the Oyashiki's system, a user can easily see the existence of the monitoring prohibit areas. In contrast, the present invention makes it possible to hold back the existence of the monitoring prohibit area by notifying the client of the identification information of plurality of virtual cameras.

Accordingly, each of amended claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Murata and Oyashiki, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 20, 27-30, 35 and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address

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such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4570). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 28, 2005

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